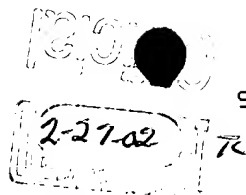


1 ~~16~~ (as amended) A hand held pointing device for a computer system, the pointing device comprising:
2 a housing having a bottom surface that moves against a desktop surface;
3 the housing also having a top surface shaped to receive the human hand;
4 the housing also having a skirt connecting a perimeter of the bottom surface with the
5 top surface;
6 the housing also having a first axis extending generally in the direction from where the
7 heel of the hand rests on the top surface to where the middle finger rests on the top surface, and
8 a second axis perpendicular to the first, both axes parallel to the bottom surface;
9 an aperture in the bottom surface;
10 a source of non-coherent illumination mounted within the interior of the housing,
11 proximate the aperture, that illuminates, from a single location and with an angle of incidence in
12 the range of about five to twenty degrees, a portion of the desktop surface opposite the aperture
13 and having surface height irregularities forming a micro texture with feature sizes in the range of
14 about five to five hundred microns, the illumination producing highlights upon surface height
15 irregularities that extend out of the desktop surface and that intercept the illumination and shadows
16 upon surface height irregularities that extend into the desktop surface and whose illumination is
17 blocked by adjacent surface height irregularities that are illuminated, the highlights and shadows
18 forming a pattern that varies as a function of rotations and translations of the aperture relative to
19 the desktop;
20 an optical motion detection circuit mounted within the interior of the housing and
21 optically coupled to the highlights and shadows from the surface height irregularities of the
22 illuminated portion of the desktop surface, the optical motion detection circuit producing motion
23 signals indicative of motion in the directions along the first and second axes and relative to the
24 surface height irregularities of the illuminated portion of the desktop surface; and
25 wherein the optical motion detection circuit comprises an array of photo detectors each
26 having an output, a memory containing a reference frame of digitized photo detector output values
27 that is stored in a reference array of memory locations corresponding to the array of photo
28 detectors and a sample frame of digitized photo detector output values obtained subsequent to the
29 reference frame and that is stored in a sample array of memory locations corresponding to the
array of photo detectors, and further wherein a plurality of comparison frames, each being a



31 shifted version of one of the reference frame or the sample frame, is correlated with the other of
33 the reference frame or the sample frame to ascertain motion in the directions along the first and
35 second axes, the correlation being upon the values in all memory array locations that correspond
to overlap between the comparison frame and the other of the reference frame or the sample
frame.--;

1 ~~21~~ (as amended) A hand held pointing device for a computer system, the pointing device comprising:
a housing having a bottom surface that moves against a work surface;
3 the housing also having a top surface shaped to receive the human hand;
the housing also having a skirt connecting a perimeter of the bottom surface with the
5 top surface;

the housing also having a first axis extending generally in the direction from where the
7 heel of the hand rests on the top surface to where the middle finger rests on the top surface, and
a second axis perpendicular to the first, both axes parallel to the bottom surface;

9 an aperture in the bottom surface;

11 a source of illumination mounted within the interior of the housing, proximate the
aperture, that illuminates a portion of the work surface opposite the aperture and having surface
13 height irregularities forming a micro texture with feature sizes in the range of about five to five
hundred microns, the illumination producing a pattern of highlights upon surface height
15 irregularities that extend out of the desktop surface and that intercept the illumination and of
shadows upon surface height irregularities that extend into the desktop surface and whose
illumination is blocked by adjacent surface height irregularities that are illuminated;

17 an optical motion detection circuit mounted within the interior of the housing and
optically coupled to the pattern of highlights and shadows from the surface height irregularities
19 of the illuminated portion of the work surface, the optical motion detection circuit producing
motion signals indicative of motion in the directions along the first and second axes and relative
21 to the surface height irregularities of the illuminated portion of the work surface;

23 wherein the optical motion detection circuit comprises an array of photo detectors each
having an output, a memory containing a reference frame of digitized photo detector output values
that is stored in a reference array of memory locations corresponding to the array of photo

25 detectors and a sample frame of digitized photo detector output values obtained subsequent to the
reference frame and that is stored in a sample array of memory locations corresponding to the
27 array of photo detectors, and further wherein a plurality of comparison frames, each being a
shifted version of one of the reference frame or the sample frame, is correlated with the other of
29 the reference frame or the sample frame to ascertain motion in the directions along the first and
second axes, the correlation being upon the values in all memory array locations that correspond
31 to overlap between the comparison frame and the other of the reference frame or the sample
frame; and

33 a switch disposed on the skirt in a location underneath the right thumb or the left ring
finger of a hand grasping the pointing device, that is coupled to the optical motion detection circuit
35 and that inhibits the output of the motion signals to the computer system when the hand activates
the switch by squeezing against the skirt in a plane parallel to the bottom surface in order to lift
37 the pointing device away from the desktop surface.--; and

1 ~~22~~.(as amended) A hand held pointing device for a computer system, the pointing device comprising:

3 a housing having a bottom surface that moves against a work surface;

the housing also having a top surface shaped to receive the human hand;

5 the housing also having a skirt connecting a perimeter of the bottom surface with the
top surface;

7 the housing also having a first axis extending generally in the direction from where the
heel of the hand rests on the top surface to where the middle finger rests on the top surface, and
a second axis perpendicular to the first, both axes parallel to the bottom surface;

9 an aperture in the bottom surface;

11 a source of illumination mounted within the interior of the housing, proximate the
aperture, that illuminates a portion of the work surface opposite the aperture and having surface
height irregularities forming a micro texture with feature sizes in the range of about five to five
13 hundred microns, the illumination producing a pattern of highlights upon surface height
irregularities that extend out of the desktop surface and that intercept the illumination and of
15 shadows upon surface height irregularities that extend into the desktop surface and whose
illumination is blocked by adjacent surface height irregularities that are illuminated;

17 an optical motion detection circuit mounted within the interior of the housing and
19 optically coupled to the pattern of highlights and shadows from the surface height irregularities
21 of the illuminated portion of the work surface, the optical motion detection circuit producing
motion signals indicative of motion in the directions along the first and second axes and relative
to the surface height irregularities of the illuminated portion of the work surface;

23 wherein the optical motion detection circuit comprises an array of photo detectors each
25 having an output, a memory containing a reference frame of digitized photo detector output values
that is stored in a reference array of memory locations corresponding to the array of photo
27 detectors and a sample frame of digitized photo detector output values obtained subsequent to the
reference frame and that is stored in a sample array of memory locations corresponding to the
array of photo detectors, and further wherein a plurality of comparison frames, each being a
29 shifted version of one of the reference frame or the sample frame, is correlated with the other of
the reference frame or the sample frame to ascertain motion in the directions along the first and
second axes, the correlation being upon the values in all memory array locations that correspond
31 to overlap between the comparison frame and the other of the reference frame or the sample
frame; and

33 a switch disposed on the skirt in a location underneath the left thumb or the right ring
finger of a hand grasping the pointing device, that is coupled to the optical motion detection circuit
35 and that inhibits the output of the motion signals to the computer system when the hand activates
the switch by squeezing against the skirt in a plane parallel to the bottom surface in order to lift
37 the pointing device away from the desktop surface.--

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